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COORDINATION QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995

Addendum

Foreword of the Secretary-General

The improvements I am seeking to introduce within the United Nations, at both the policy and management levels, must be an integral part of a broader, system-wide effort to adapt priorities and methods of work to a rapidly changing international environment.

During the past year, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) has reinforced its capacity to address the main policy issues facing the international community, and to promote and organize joint initiatives towards common objectives.

Enhancing the policy relevance of ACC's work has been, over the past few years, one of my key objectives. My aim is to develop a common policy framework to guide the overall work of the system and, in so doing, to strengthen the Committee's support to the central intergovernmental bodies in the exercise of their system-wide responsibilities. ACC's progress in promoting an integrated follow-up to recent global conferences illustrates this enhanced capacity.

Of similar significance in relation to the work of ACC is the need to sustain a pattern of tangible results in policy and programme coordination and the development of joint initiatives in key areas of inter-agency concern. The

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new United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa developed by the Committee is an important example of such an initiative. ACC discussions on drug abuse control should also do much to improve coordination in this important area, and serve to prepare for a productive consideration of this issue at the forthcoming substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

ACC has a key role in promoting a common assessment by executive heads of the changing environment in which international cooperation and development are taking place, and a shared view of the collective responses required. This should include a common understanding of the expectations of member Governments and the public with respect to the efficient delivery of services; and it should encompass linkages between bilateral and multilateral cooperation and among emergency, post-emergency and development assistance.

ACC's contribution to these ends is complemented by the contacts that I have intensified with the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, and other organizations such as the specialized agencies on issues of common concern. These issues often bridge the political and development missions of the Organization. The forum on the future of the United Nations system, held in Vienna in conjunction with the first regular session of 1995 of the Committee, also resulted in a most helpful dialogue between executive heads and eminent personalities who had chaired independent commissions on various aspects of United Nations reform.

A major shared concern of all executive heads continues to be the grave financial situation facing the United Nations, and the overall decline in funding, particularly for long-term development activities. ACC's contribution in this respect is manifold: to appeal to the international community to give renewed priority to development, and to provide the system with the means and resources needed to address the new global challenges facing it; to provide a forum for an exchange of experience on management reform and measures to maximize cost-effectiveness; and to contribute directly to greater cost-effectiveness system-wide, by achieving an efficient division of labour, based on the comparative advantages of each organization.

The work of ACC in the period ahead will increasingly prove a key element in enhancing political support for and confidence in the essential work of the United Nations system.